

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney Sidney Persley thanks the Examiner for taking time to meet with him on May 27, 2003. Based on said interview, Claims 1-6 are cancelled, Claim 7 is amended, Claims 30-40 are hereby withdrawn, and new Claims 41-45 are added. No new matter has been added by such.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such away as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The Examiner opines that the claims recite a "water compatible compound", which in itself, is so broad as to be incomprehensible. Applicants have amended independent claim 7 to include the phrases "single phase" and "water compatible non-emulsion, non-dispersing compound" to better describe and define the water compatible compound. Thus, Applicants have defined a water compatible compound as one which does not phase separate or precipitate when added to water or cause the maleimide derivative to phase separate or precipitate. Nor is the water compatible compound a dispersant or part of an emulsion. Applicants kindly ask that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 3 has also been rejected under U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Inasmuch as Claim 3 has been withdrawn, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1-19 have been rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being clearly anticipated by Sakurai et al. (US 6,410,611 B1). The Examiner opines that Sakurai et al. discloses the manufacture of an irradiation curable coating, which

comprises a bis-maleimide compound and water compatible compounds, identical to those herein claimed and also discloses that the composition may also contain water.

Applicants respectfully point out that Sakurai et al. does not disclose actinic radiation curable compositions that contain water as a component. All references in Sakurai et al. to water is as a **reactant** in the synthesis of the bis-maleimide compound and/or a **by-product** of the synthesis of the bis-maleimide compound. (See, column 10, lines 3,5 and 57; column 25, lines 53 and 58; and column 27, line 29). In contrast, Applicants' composition contains (a) water as a separate component along with (b) the bis-maleimide compound and (c) a water compatible non-emulsion, non-dispersing compound to form a single phase water compatible actinic radiation curable composition.

Accordingly, as stated by the Examiner during the Interview, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by McGinnis (US 4,066,523). Claims 1-3 have been withdrawn, however Applicants will address the rejection based on currently amended independent claim 7.

McGinnis discloses an electrocoating composition, which contains a maleimide compound, water and a water-dispersed polymer. However, McGinnis' maleimide compound, set forth in column 4, lines 25-52 (a **cross-linking agent**) is not the same bis-maleimide compound as Applicants' maleimide compound.

Accordingly, McGinnis fails to disclose **all** of the features of Applicants' composition and therefore does not anticipate Applicants' invention. Applicants kindly ask that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Roth et al. (US 4,626,497). Claims 1-3 have been withdrawn, however Applicants will address the rejection based on currently amended independent claim 7.

Roth et al. discloses a process for the production of colored photographic polymer image using a photocrosslinked copolymer wherein the copolymer is prepared from a (meth)acrylate, (meth)acrylamide or vinyl ether derivative containing one maleimide group having the formula as set forth in column 2, lines 1-13.

However, Roth et al.'s maleimide group is not the same maleimide compound as Applicants' bis-maleimide compound.

Accordingly, Roth et al. fails to disclose all of the features of Applicants' composition and therefore does not anticipate Applicants' invention. Applicants kindly ask that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Wilson, Jr. et al. (US 5,034,279). Claim 1 has been withdrawn, however Applicants will address the rejection based on currently amended independent claim 7.

Wilson, Jr. et al discloses water compatible compositions containing resins and bis-maleimides. However, Wilson Jr. et al.'s maleimide compound, as set forth in column 7, lines 16-50 (Formula III) is a **cross-linking agent** and is not the same bis-maleimide compound as Applicants' bis-maleimide compound.

Accordingly, Wilson Jr. et al. fails to disclose all of the features of Applicants' composition and therefore does not anticipate Applicants' invention. Applicants kindly ask that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Kishino et al. (US 5,993,687). Claim 1 has been withdrawn, however Applicants will address the rejection based on currently amended independent claim 7.

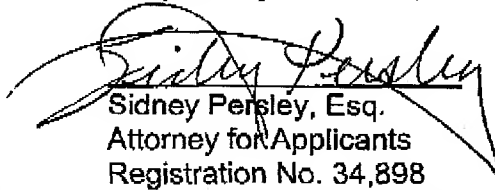
Kishino et al. discloses an acrylonitrile solution of maleimide. However, Kishino et al.'s N-phenyl maleimide, as set forth in column 12, lines 14-35, is not the same maleimide compound as Applicants' bis-maleimide compound.

Accordingly, Kishino et al. fails to disclose all of the features of Applicants' composition and therefore does not anticipate Applicants' invention. Applicants kindly ask that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the amendments and remarks submitted herein, adequately and completely address each of the rejections raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance and issuance of the outstanding claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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